



BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough

For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.



BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough

For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health—John Cleminson, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—W. J. Eversett, Cert. R.S.I., etc.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—H. Street, Cert. R.S.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the year 1941 is still issued in the curtailed form as laid down by the Ministry of Health.

The health of your district in the year under review has been satisfactory, and there has been no undue incidence of the more serious types of infectious disease.

I would draw your attention to the comments which I have made upon the housing position later in the Report.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the kindly help which I have received from the Council and the members of your staff during the past year.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The customary notes on social conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1941.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population ... 15,160

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate	...	265	126
		Illegitimate	...	17	6
Still births	...	...	...	16	11
					5

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1941, - 17.5

This compares with a rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales.

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, - 56.9

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

				Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	...	16	11	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	2	2

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 73.9 per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 63.5

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 235.3

				Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	...	...	...	193	83	110

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population - 12.7

The following table shews the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	1	1	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	2	1	1
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	1	0	1
Diphtheria ...	1	1	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	9	5	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	0	2
Syphilitic diseases ...	1	1	0
Influenza ...	4	1	3
Measles ...	0	0	0
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis ...	1	0	1
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	0	1
Cancer of breast ...	2	0	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	21	6	15
Diabetes ...	1	1	0
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	20	6	14
Heart disease ...	30	14	16
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	2	2	0
Bronchitis ...	15	5	10
Pneumonia ...	10	6	4
Other respiratory diseases ...	2	2	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	2	2	0
Appendicitis ...	1	1	0
Other digestive diseases ...	4	2	2
Nephritis ...	3	0	3
Premature birth ...	7	5	2
Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant dis. ...	5	2	3
Suicide ...	2	2	0
Road traffic accident ...	2	2	0
Other violent causes ...	7	3	4
All other causes ...	30	11	19
Totals ...	191	83	108

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths
Pueperal Sepsis	...	0
Other Maternal causes	...	2
		—
Total	...	2
		—

The Maternal Mortality is 0.70 per 1,000 live and still births.

The comparative figure for England and Wales is 2.23 per 1,000 live and still births.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment, and there does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

No change took place in these services during the past year. The facilities at present available appear to be adequate.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—There have been no new sources of public water supply during the period under review. The scheme for augmenting the existing supplies has proceeded to the extent of commencing preliminary boring operations at the Hug Bridge at Bosley, from which it is hoped to obtain satisfactory results.

Increased daily demands on the existing supplies due to Military and other War causes are still having to be met, and in drought periods curtailment of supplies in certain areas had to be resorted to.

The supplies from Forge and the College Grounds, which constitute the major portion of the Town's supply, continue to be chlorinated, and the Buglawton Borehole Supply is constantly treated for correcting plumbo-solvency action of the raw water by the addition of Soda Ash.

Ten samples of water taken from the Town's supply in various parts of the Borough were forwarded to the County Analysts (Messrs. Melling & Ardern, Manchester) for examination, and the results indicated show the waters to be of wholesome bacteriological quality.

There have been no main extensions carried out during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The scheme to deal with the drainage and sewage disposal of West Heath and Astbury Village in the Congleton Rural area is still in abeyance owing to present war conditions. Similarly, there has not been the necessity to carry out any sewer extensions owing to lack of building generally in the Borough.

The existing Sewage Disposal Works is still fully taxed, having to deal with increased trade effluent from the Dairies in the Borough which are operating on extra production to meet increasing War needs.

Samples of the 'Final Effluent' at the Works have been taken periodically for analysis by the County Authorities and the results prove to be satisfactory.

Public Cleansing.—There has been no deviation from the existing practice in the method of Public Cleansing, Collection and Disposal of House Refuse during the year.

Trade refuse is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority by arrangement, and under Government War Measures all Butchers' Offals and Diseased Meat is collected and disposed of outside this area under the instructions and supervision of the Ministry of Food.

In the Buglawton Area the closet pails and house refuse is collected weekly and deposited on a tip in the out-lying area.

During the year 2,775 tons of Refuse was collected and disposed of at the Refuse Tip.

The local Salvage Scheme operating in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Supply has given very satisfactory results, and the Returns submitted monthly to that Department indicate the active part played by the Cleansing Department in this direction.

Constant attention is given to the destruction of rats on the Refuse Tip, and at breeding periods special precautions are taken to render the Tip as free as possible of these pests, and during the period under review 1,402 rats were destroyed on the Refuse Tip by the Corporation rat-catcher.

Closet Accommodation :—

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1941 ...	6
Number of conversions from slop closets to pail closets during 1941	0
Number of pail closets in built-up areas	224

Sanitary Inspection.—5 statutory and 274 informal notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector, 273 of which were complied with, during the year.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The customary table of activities under the Housing Acts is omitted.

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	172

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by service of informal action	37
Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	81
Number of families dwelling therein	81
Number of persons dwelling therein	529
Clearance areas represented, declared and orders made during 1941	0
Clearance areas declared and orders made	0
Clearance areas represented	0
Clearance orders made in 1941 in respect of areas represented and declared during 1940	0
Clearance orders confirmed by the Ministry of Health ...	0

The housing position in Congleton still continues to be acute, since the demand for accommodation is greatly in excess of the available supply. I am sure that there is a good deal of overcrowding, and a considerable proportion of this will, I am afraid, have to be regarded as inevitable.

A serious situation is developing with regard to many houses which were condemned as being unfit for habitation before the war started. I refer to those houses which are still inhabited. These houses are becoming more and more dilapidated and even dangerous (in many cases it is safe to say that they are incapable of repair, even at considerable expense), and the plight of the inhabitants, who must continue to live in them, is becoming worse and worse. Furthermore, there is a large

amount of property which, but for the start of the war and the suspension of all housing programmes would, by now, have been represented and scheduled for demolition. This property, too, is becoming more dilapidated and unfit for habitation, owing to the present-time difficulty of having adequate repairs carried out.

I am afraid that the only solution to these housing problems will be the resumption of housing programmes by the Government, and I am afraid that, as long as this war lasts, very little will be done in this line. The lot of the people condemned to live in such houses as I have described above, possibly for some considerable time to come, must give rise to a good deal of concern, and every effort must be made, and all avenues explored, to try and remedy or alleviate this state of affairs.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Milk Supply :—

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	...	...	140
Number of visits paid to dairies...	...	...	142
Number of producers of "Accredited" Milk		...	29
15 of whom are retailers.			

There are no producers of Tuberculin-tested milk.

Number of licenses issued by the Corporation to distributors				
of Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	2

1 out of 32 mixed milk samples examined for tubercle bacilli were found to be positive and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. It was later reported to the Senior Sanitary Inspector that the cow had been detected and slaughtered.

1 informal notice was served with respect to cowsheds and 2 with respect to dairies; all these were complied with.

Meat and other Foods.—

Total amount of meat destroyed was 126,129 lbs.

Approximately four-fifths of this meat was taken from casualty animals, and the total weight destroyed also includes all offals. Killing is done here not only for the Borough, but also for a large portion of the Congleton Rural District, and other districts.

All samples of food and drugs examined by the Public Analyst during the year were found to be of the desired quality.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

SECTION F.***Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.***

During the past year there has been no outbreak of serious infectious disease. A slight epidemic of measles was experienced during the first and second quarters of the year, but the disease was of a mild type and gave no cause for anxiety. Coincident with this increased incidence of measles, there was an increased incidence of whooping cough, which was also of a comparatively mild type and also gave little cause for anxiety. The number of notifications of diphtheria, 17, shows a welcome reduction from that of the previous year, 23, and 1 death was recorded from the disease. The following tables show the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths from each of these diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1941.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	15	11	0
Diphtheria	17	16	1
Enteric Fever(including paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	0
Pneumonia... ..	46	1	10
Erysipelas	6	3	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	0
Measles	416	0	0
Whooping Cough	98	0	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	7	7	3

Age Distribution of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	3	0	6	2	0	3	1	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	1	3	8	0	3	2	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Pneumonia ...	2	2	3	1	2	11	6	3	3	2	6	5
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Measles ...	13	40	36	55	46	189	19	7	9	2	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	11	12	12	12	14	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	0

A diphtheria immunisation scheme is in force within the Borough and the following table shows the extent to which it has been used during the year :—

Number of children immunised, under school age...	...	24
Number of children immunised, of school age ...	...	27
Total number of children immunised since inception of the scheme in 1939 ... ..	...	1359

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 yr. ...								
1-5 ...				1				
5-15 ...	1	1	1			1	1	
15-25 ...					1			
25-35 ...	3							
35-45 ...	2			1	1			
45-55 ...	1					1		
55-65 ...	2	2			1	2		
65 and upwards ...	1				1			
Totals ...	10	3	1	2	4	4	1	0

Factories Act, 1937.

Three Certificates have been granted during 1941 in respect of Fire Escapes under the Factory Act, 1937.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their help in compiling this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN CLEMINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

